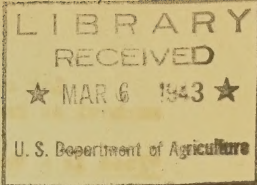


United States Department of Agriculture
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington, D. C.



A SPECIAL 4-H CLUB LEADER IN EACH NEIGHBORHOOD

H. W. HOCHBAUM

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Our 4-H boys and girls have this year rolled up a most remarkable record of helping in this war. From every corner of the land have come inspiring stories of self-denial, of work, of splendid accomplishment in helping with farm and home labor, of producing and conserving food, of helping with household management, of having victory gardens, of collecting aluminum, iron and steel, rubber, and other needed materials, of buying and selling war stamps and bonds, and of many other activities that have meant sacrifice and service. 4-H has indeed won new and greater appreciation and made more brilliant its great record of achievement.

For this, the country is indebted to you State leaders and our county extension agents, but above all to the inspiration, guidance, and work of our many thousands of volunteer 4-H Club leaders. This volunteer leadership has been the keystone of the success and prestige of 4-H Club work. Too much cannot be said in praise of these leaders now, as in the past. We owe them everlasting credit.

The year ahead of all of us means more work, more service and sacrifice, more help to the Government, supreme effort all along the line. On the agricultural front, the tasks set for our farm people are stupendous. This week in Denver, and here in Chicago, our Secretary and national and State leaders in the agricultural world are meeting to consider the goals for farm production in 1943, and are planning how these goals may be reached. Big as these goals were in 1942 and with a greater harvest than this country or any other country had ever reaped before, the needs of our armed forces, our allies, and our civilian population are so great that our goals must be greatly increased over those of 1942. You can understand why, when you know that one-fourth of our total food production must go to meet the needs of our armed forces and our allies.

One-half of the 1943 prospective commercial pack of canned vegetables will be required by the Government. Among other things, the Department is seeking an increase of 15 percent in the number of sows farrowed, a 6 percent increase in the number of eggs, 7 percent increase in the number of hens and pullets, and will set the goal of 122 billion pounds of milk. Also included is the goal that every farm where climate and water supply permit must have a big garden, one big enough to produce the family's entire yearly supply of vegetables - fresh as well as canned, dried, or stored. Moreover, every farm should produce as much as possible of other foods to meet home needs - foods such as milk, butter, cheese, poultry, eggs, fruit, and meat within the ration limits. And every small town or rural nonfarm home where space permits should have a big Victory Garden and also produce eggs, poultry and other food products.

Thereby farm and rural families will be assured of adequate food supplies especially the protective foods. Then the strain on our transportation, our tires, our labor, will be lessened. Then we shall also add to the stocks available for military and lend-lease purposes.

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Let me quote a recent editorial from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, which emphasizes how great a part food plays in this global war:

"Food Is a Weapon."

"American farmers will be front line soldiers in the offensives the United Nations are brewing for Europe. Just as North Africa is being used as a testing ground for America's combat troops, so American food is being tested as a pacifier and a recruiting agency for the allied cause.

"The occupied countries of Europe are near starvation. Food from American farms will do much to rally the peoples of those nations to the United Nations. And once the invasion starts, American farmers must not only provide food for the allied armies, but for the civilian population of the liberated nations as well.

"What this means to the home front is that the food-rationing program is just starting. To be the larder as well as the arsenal of democracy will necessitate the rationing of many foods. America must be prepared to provision the freed nations of Europe, and any let-down in the farm production front will affect the programs of our offensives abroad."

There are many other jobs to do on the farm and rural front. Before the heavy snows come, every available bit of farm scrap, iron, steel, rubber, etc. must be collected. Donald Nelson has sent out something like 10,000 telegrams to country weeklies and farm papers asking them to conduct an intensive publicity campaign to get the farm scrap in. This scrap is more valuable for making steel than the lighter scrap obtained in the cities. In this scrap collection, 4-H has a most prominent part to play. Then there is the continued financing of the war which must be carried on, more bonds and stamps must be sold. Labor shortage is another big need which must be met. And there are other big things in the war program and still more to come. The Secretary has said, "We want you, the 4-H Club members, to know that you are a definite part of your Government's organization for helping to win the war."

What I have just said and what others have told you add up to just this: We need the help of our 4-H boys and girls as we have never needed it before to help do these big war jobs. More than that, we need the help of every available farm and rural boy and girl. This means reaching every farm on the last hill and in the farthest hollow to find these boys and girls, to enlist the support of their parents, and to enroll these boys and girls in the extensive war program. We should have 3 million or more boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Clubs, each club definitely adopting a war program.

This means in turn that we have to triple and quadruple our volunteer 4-H Club leaders. Without them we cannot get the job done. It means a 4-H neighborhood leader, or, if you prefer, a special 4-H leader in every neighborhood delineated in our neighborhood-leader system already established. It means more work on your part in training your present volunteer leaders to help in the selection, training, and guidance of these new 4-H leaders. It means stripping down the whole 4-H Club for action in this tremendously bigger field. That this will be done I have no doubt.

What shall the neighborhood leaders do? Their work will vary State by

State, of course, depending upon State needs and situations. But here I venture a few guides which may be of general application. Remember always that the primary jobs are, to get the help of every possible boy and girl in the war agricultural program, and to bring these boys and girls together in 4-H Clubs to get the inspiration, help, and guidance club work gives. These jobs can only be done with the help of volunteer leaders.

What the 4-H neighborhood leader can do:

1. Working through existing neighborhood leaders and volunteer club leaders, visit every farm, interview parents of children, tell them of the 4-H Club's part in war programs and the need for young people to join a neighborhood or community 4-H Club.
2. Bring these young people together with community or existing volunteer leaders to discuss war projects and war work and get them to enroll in some of this work.
3. Bring literature to the new enrollees and help to train them in the jobs accepted or assignments made.
4. Conduct club meetings with the help of other leaders whenever circumstances permit.
5. Help to direct the 4-H neighborhood members' part in special drives, such as scrap collections, sales of bonds and stamps, and to understand rationing orders.
6. Visit 4-H Club members and help them with their activities.
7. Help members with, and obtain, brief reports of work done.

These duties make it appear very much as though the special leaders were to function as our present 4-H Club leaders do. Why not, within the limits allowed by the wartime demands on the time and energy of the leaders and the boys and girls? There is a big job ahead, and you can do it. The need is there and community and neighborhood leaders will help you to do the work in first-rate fashion. Of that, I am sure, and so are you.

This whole proposition has had the following history. Over a year ago some of us saw that club work was suffering because of the tremendous load of work placed on our county extension agents. A few States were fortunate enough to have funds to employ assistant county agents to help out. But for most of the country, we thought the work could only be done by vastly increasing our local leadership. Then, this summer, Director Wilson said that 4-H Club membership must be increased and clubs give more help in war work. I took this up at four regional meetings of State directors in September who showed unusual interest in the problem and then approved the idea of more war work, more club members and special neighborhood leaders to do the job. Your own subcommittee of the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy made a special report approving the ideas. Then at Chicago in October, the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy gave this report and the problems involved unusual attention. After many hours of work, this Committee prepared a brief report which emphasized particularly

the need for adopting a war program, to get every possible boy and girl to help with that program and to do this with the aid of 4-H neighborhood club leaders. This report in the form you now have was approved by the entire Extension Section of the Land-Grant College Association.

So the need and the opportunity are there. The proposals have received much thought by extension directors, who are anxious to reach the goals set. I know that you, too, want to do this, and that you will reach these goals.